

# Northern Virginia Regional Partnership Steering Committee Meeting April 10, 2003

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## **Attendees**

Jane Anthony, George Barker, Roger Biraben, Phill Bradbury, Ray Bridge, Jessica Burmester, Lynn DeLacy, Mark Diorio, Frank Edmunson, Tom Geib, Mike Gilmore, Amanda Goza, Wendy Gradison, Betsy Greer, Alfred Head, Joe Hinshaw, Sharon Jones, Leslie Katz, Henriette Kellum, Bob Lassiter, John Morrow, Lou Rosato, Karen Shoemaker, Jim Thur, William Yolton and Alan Wooten.

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**The Notes of March 20, 2003 were accepted.**

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

- A contract has been implemented with Joan Durman to provide services to the Mental Health Work Group focusing on data collection and compilation, particularly in the area of trends and projections of inpatient beds in Northern Virginia.
- The Northern Virginia Regional Partnership Planning Project web site will be up and running within the next week to include memberships, resource documents as well as notes from the various meetings. It was suggested that some Community Services Boards might be interested in establishing a link to the site which can be reached through the Fairfax-Falls Church Community Services Board homepage: <http://fairfaxcounty.gov/service/csb/homepage/htm>.
- The Virginia Department of Mental Health, Mental Retardation and Substance Abuse Services will be issuing a monthly publication entitled "Partnership Press" and are requesting each regional partnership to provide submissions for inclusion. Any items to be submitted can be provided to John Morrow who will act as liaison with the State in transmitting information.
- As a result of the Advisory Committee Resolution in opposition to closing beds at the Northern Virginia Mental Health Institute (NVMHI), a meeting with State representatives took place in which the current situation as well as future projections were fully discussed. There was no specific outcome, however, a very clear picture of the Northern Virginia region's circumstances was relayed.
- Upon notification that two Mental Health Advisory Boards, Northwest Center and Mt. Vernon Center, have requested to join the Steering Committee, the members present readily agreed to the request.

## **UPDATES FROM WORK GROUPS**

### Mental Health:

- ? Sharon Jones summarized the April 1 meeting of the Work Group which included discussion of private bed purchase funding and the NVMHI document on Levels of Inpatient Treatment. The next meeting of the Work Group will take place on April 24.

### Structural:

- ? Bob Lassiter noted the meeting with private psychiatric hospital representatives took place in March and a follow up meeting is scheduled for April 23.
- ? It was also observed that the April 11 meeting will need to be cancelled due to many members being unable to participate and that the next meeting will be held on May 2.

## **COMMUNITY FORUMS AND CONSUMER FOCUS GROUPS**

With the completion of Loudoun's forums which will take place this evening, April 10, all the scheduled public meetings will have been held. Some of the common themes have included:

### **Community Forums:**

- Accessibility of hospitals
- Homeless services
- Access to medications
- Need for regionalization of services
- Need for consumer-run programs
- Within geriatric environment, lack of geographic accessibility as well as caregiver support
- Transportation

### **Consumer Focus Groups:**

- Jobs, transportation, housing
- Medications
- Need for regionalized services
- Staff not having enough time to listen (need more two-way communication)
- Lack of respect and understanding from staff
- Problems and confusion with SSI and SSDI

## **MEETING WITH PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITALS**

At the March 26 meeting, most hospitals invited were able to participate. Some of the highlights discussed were:

- Finances
- Service models in which an eagerness was noted to discover aspects that could be utilized
- Limited capability/ability to support people at risk
- Concern of emergency room usage
- Discharge planning activities
- Positive feedback on current DAD contract
- Willingness to establish common language to building services

A complete listing of the membership of this group will be included on the Northern Virginia Regional Partnership Planning Project web site.

## **NVMHI DOCUMENT ON PATIENT PROFILES**

Prior to Amanda Goza's presentation of the Levels of Inpatient Treatment, Jim Thur observed that the paper was provided to Commissioner Reinhard who found it of interest. The briefing summarized the four-levels of care organized by acuity and complexity, and noted staff has been asked to place patients within each of these categories to determine its usefulness. It is hoped this tool might be a vehicle to assist in developing a common language which ultimately can play a role within the private sector as well.

A final copy of the document which contained minimal revisions was forwarded after the meeting and will be placed on the Northern Virginia Regional Partnership Planning Project web site.

## **WORK PLAN ISSUES**

*Inclusion of Additional Services.* Due to the fast approaching deadlines, it was observed that a consensus is needed by the May meeting on what, if any, additional areas will be

addressed in the next year of the Partnership. Areas for consideration included children services, mental retardation, geriatrics and substance abuse, which would all require additional work groups to be staffed. It was determined that geriatrics will be included in the initial report and that the MR/MI Work Group would continue to thoroughly focus on the dual issue and not try to stretch its resources by tackling the single issue of mental retardation. As the substance abuse representative was not present at this meeting, discussion of this issue was deferred to the May meeting. Acknowledging that each area is deserving and in need of focus, it was also recognized that due to budget constraints and current work loads, staffing additional work groups would be extremely difficult, if not impossible.

July Draft. After lengthy discussion as to how best circulate the draft report to the community and stakeholders, initial recommendations consisted of:

- Posting on Regional Partnership web site
- Possible development of bulletin board on web site
- Notify alliance/consumer groups
- Include in various newsletter
- Compile lists of participants in the Forums/Consumer Groups to notify

## **NEXT MEETING**

The next Steering Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, May 15, 8:30 a.m. in Room 9-10 of the Fairfax County Government Center.